

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 7 and 17 are canceled herein, leaving claims 2-6, 8-16 and 18-19 pending in this application. In the Office Action dated September 12th, 2005, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 17 and 19 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Schilling (US 6,269,092), and has rejected claim 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Schilling in view of Giallorenzi (US 6,810,028). The Examiner has affirmed the previous conclusion that claims 2, 8 and 12-16 are allowed. Cancellation of claims 1, 7 and 17 is not to imply the Applicant's agreement with the Examiner's characterization of the cited art.

Claims 3-6 are amended to depend from allowed claim 2 as opposed to canceled claim 1, and claim 4 is further amended to recite proper antecedent basis. Claims 9-11 are amended to depend from allowed claim 8 as opposed to canceled claim 7. Claim 18 is amended to recite in independent form, incorporating all elements of now-canceled claim 17 from which it formerly depended. Claim 19 is amended to depend from claim 18 as opposed to canceled claim 17.

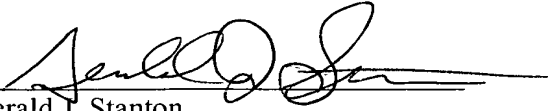
The rejection to claim 18 is over the combination of Shilling and Giallorenzi. Giallorenzi is assigned to L-3 Communications Corp, as is the pending application (assignment filed with the application and recorded on 10/24/2000 at reel 011280, frame 0414). Giallorenzi appears to qualify as prior art only under 35 USC 102(e) due to its earlier filing date. Since the pending application was filed on or after November 29, 1999, the provisions of 35 USC 103(c) apply and Giallorenzi is not valid prior art against this application due to common ownership. See MPEP 706.02(I)(1). The present application and Giallorenzi, at the time the invention of the present application was made, were both owned by L-3 Communications Corp. See MPEP 706.02(I)(2)(II) for evidentiary requirements to establish common ownership. The rejection to claim 18 is therefore overcome. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and should therefore also be allowable.

All rejections being either overcome by cancellation or amendment, or rendered moot by disqualification of Giallorenzi, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass pending claims 2-6, 8-16 and 18-19 to issue. The undersigned representative welcomes the

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opportunity to resolve any matters that may remain, formal or otherwise, via teleconference at the Examiner's discretion.

Respectfully submitted:


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December 9, 2005
Date

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 9, 2005
Date


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